### DoE stops construction of 30-storey illegal bldg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday penalised a developer with a Tk 32 lakh fine for constructing a 30-storey commercial building in the capital without any environmental clearance.

It also fined a private housing company, Purbachal Probashi Polli, Tk 25 lakh for illegally undertaking a housing project at Rupganj in Narayanganj without the environmental clearance.

A DoE enforcement team detected that the developer, Borak Real Estate Ltd, had not obtained the civil aviation's clearance in building the high-rise, DCC-Unique Complex, in Banani.

DoE Director Mohammad Munir Chowdhury, who handed down the penalty, ordered the Borak authorities to stall the construction work immediately until mandatory clearances are obtained from the government agencies concerned.

Borak was supposed to build a 14-storey building as per the lease deed with Dhaka North City Corporation, but they had already built 27 floors, said Munir.

As per the environmental law, the developer was required to obtain site clearance before commencing the construction work, he said.

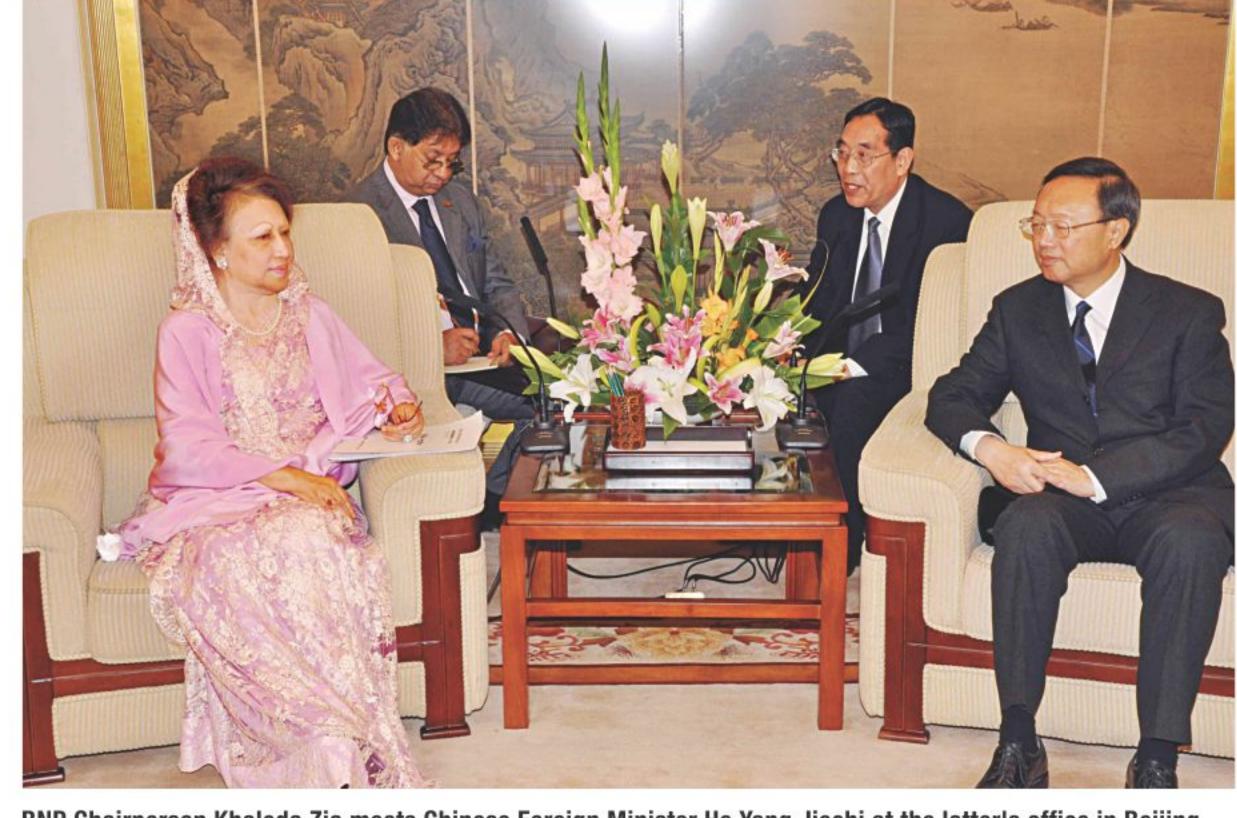
Mimshad Rahman, director of Borak Real Estate Ltd, said the city corporation that owns the land was supposed to obtain all the required clearances from the government as per the contract.

About the height of the building, he said though the lease deed was for a 14-storey building, the chief engineer of the city corporation approved a 30-storey drawing.

In another drive at Rupganj, the DoE team detected that 98 percent proposed site of Purbachal Probashi Polli's housing project was submerged in water, where local people catch fish.

The DoE team had dismantled the project's signboards and ordered closure of all its activities there.

DoE Director Munir said the Probashi Polli authority runs the housing scheme as Adnan Satellite City and thus deceive the ordinary



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia meets Chinese Foreign Minister He Yang Jiechi at the latter's office in Beijing yesterday. PHOTO: BNP

LAND DISPOSSESSION to Indonesia

### Give farmers addl benefits

Speakers tell int'l seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENTS

Farmers who are dispossessed of their lands and relocated for infrastructural developments must be provided with additional benefits along with financial compensation, academics opined at an international workshop yesterday.

They called for enactment of a law and effective policy to protect farmlands from being used for infrastructural developments without control.

Bielefeld University and Dhaka University (DU) jointly organised the workshop, "Controversial Democratic Spaces: Land, Environment and Human Rights in Bangladesh", at DU Senate Bhaban. Panel speaker Prof Rehman Sobhan said

that in addition to cash compensations, the farmers should be offered lifelong benefits from their lands used for developmental measures. "All land should be... legally recognised as

its owner's (farmers) equity, whenever it is acquired either for public or even private development," he said.

"All such owners must be guaranteed an

equity stake in the development of their acquired land, whether this be for the Padma Bridge, an export processing zone or a real estate development project." Prof Sobhan also recommended identifying

khas lands under illegal occupation and a strategy for distribution of the lands among the land poor and landless farmers. Keynote speaker Dr Ridwanul Hoque of

Department of Law, Dhaka University, said,

"The rule of law to protect Bangladeshi farmers needs stronger enforcement as 10 percent of agro land has been reduced in the last decade." Citing a research, he said, "70 percent of the civil suits are land-related and most of these

litigations turn out to be futile, as many of them are based on false allegations or just due to mistakes, corruptions or twisting of documents relating to land." Dr Joanna Pfaff-Czarnecka, research group

director of Social Anthropology at Bielefeld University, said, "Land grabbing is done by the powerful elite in a democracy which oppresses the land poor and landless majority. Such postcolonial, oppressive practices go against the idea of democracy itself."

### 14 held for fraudulence in HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

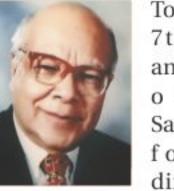
Law enforcers yesterday held 14 people from the High Court premises for fraudulence after an HC order. The detainees are Ashraf,

Mawla, Gulzar, Tuhin Kiah, Khairuzzaman, Bikul, Dulal Matubbor, Mirza, Obaidul Mollah, Mahbub, Kalam Matubbor, Masud, Firoz and Hafizur of Nagarkanda in Faridpur.

The detainees, who appeared before an HC bench for bail in an attempted murder case, suppressed information to the court about an earlier order that rejected their another bail petition last week.

The HC gave the order after Assistant Attorney General Ali Jinnah informed the court about the fraudulence.

Death anniversary METRO DESK



Today is the 7th death anniversary of MA Samad, the founder director of

Academy. His family members have requested all friends, wellwishers and relatives to pray

Bangladesh Insurance

for the peace of the departed soul, said a press release. Samad, also former chairman of Bangladesh Insurance Association, was enlisted as an international expert in the

technical assistance programme on trade and development of the United Nations. After retirement as managing director of Jiban Bima Corporation, he established Bangladesh General Insurance

Company Limited (BGIC). He was born at Kulaura of Moulvibazarin 1923.

## Seminar on" Role of Banking Sector in Corporate Social Responsibillity (CSR) & Distribution of Scholars to the Disabled Poor Students" Chief Guest: Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed. Former Governor, Bangaldesh Bank Special Guest:

AAM Zakaria, managing director of First Security Islami Bank Limited (FSIBL), hands over a cheque to the guardian of a mentally challenged student at Cirdap auditorium in the capital on Monday. FSIBL distributed 50 scholarships among poor mentally challenged school students. PHOTO: COURTESY

### Arrest persons for 'fatwa' on housewife

New envoy

The govern-

ment has

decided to

appoint

Nazmul

Quaunine as

the ambas-

sador of

and London.

release.

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh to Indonesia, said

a foreign ministry press

the ambassador to the UAE.

He is currently serving as

Nazmul earlier served the

Bangladesh Embassy in

Washington DC, Bangladesh

Permanent Mission to UN in

Geneva and Bangladesh High

Commissions in Islamabad

HC directs police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the police to arrest the people responsible for imposing a fatwa on a housewife at Mirsarai in Chittagong. In response to a petition, the HC ordered the police also to

file a case in this connection, if the victim, Asma Aktar, had not filed it yet. Advocate Manzill Murshid, on behalf of Human Rights

and Peace for Bangladesh, filed the petition earlier yesterday following media reports. He sought necessary directives over the matter. According to a 2010 HC verdict, causing mental and phys-

ical torture to anyone by imposing a fatwa is illegal. After the hearing yesterday, the HC bench of Justice Salma

Masud Chowdhury and Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah issued a rule upon the government to explain in four weeks why it should not be directed to take action against those responsible for the fatwa incident.

The court also asked the police to give protection to Asma, who had been hiding to save her life from those who issued the fatwa, and submit a compliance report to the HC in a week. Mahfuzul Haque, a local union parishad member and the

ruling Awami League leader of Nayduaria, along with some of his supporters at a village arbitration declared that stones will be thrown on Asma after putting her into a chest-deep hole in the ground, media reports said. The arbitration was held on October 2 after Asma had

filed a case against Mahfuzul and his aides on charges of sexual harassment in July. They reportedly abused her some days before the filing of the case.

After the hearing yesterday, the HC also summoned the officer-in-charge of Mirsarai Police Station and Mahfuzul Haque to appear before it on November 5 and explain their roles over the fatwa incident.

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#### Sufficient funds for agri sector sought

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should allocate adequate funds for agriculture sector to ensure food security in the country, said speakers at a programme yesterday.

Small and marginal farmers should be provided with necessary items for farm work such as seeds and fertilisers in a subsidised price by the government, they said.

Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies (IDMVS) of Dhaka University and Oxfam Bangladesh jointly organised the programme marking the World Food Security Day 2012 at DU RC Majumder auditorium.

DU IDMVS Director Prof Mahbuba Narseen read out a keynote paper.

With Prof HKS Arefin in the chair, DUVice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique addressed the programme, among others.



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